

AIR FORCE OFFICIAL USE ONLY
FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM Embassy Stockholm
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASHINGTON
REF

October 9, 1956

4004249

SUBJECT: NEW SWEDISH REPRESENTATION TO MOSCOW ON WALLENBERG CASE

The Swedish Foreign Office announced on September 28, 1956 that a "new serious reminder" had been made in Moscow the day before on the Raoul WALLENBERG case.

In an unusually sharp memorandum, by Swedish standards, the Foreign Office stated, according to a communiqué which it issued to the press:

"In a Memorandum handed by the Swedish Charge d'Affaires to Vice Foreign Minister ZACHAROV it was first recalled that the Soviet Government in connection with Prime Minister ERLANDER'S and Interior Minister EDELMUND'S visit to Moscow and March-early April 1956 had undertaken to study carefully the exhaustive material at that time submitted by Sweden and to advise the Swedish Government of the result of this study. The Memorandum then stated that it is consequently now almost half a year since the Soviet Government promised to start its new investigations. The Swedish Government establishes that during this time, when repeated reminders have been made to the Soviet authorities, it has not received any information on the result of the investigations. Because of this, it wishes to underscore anew the enormous importance it attaches to this affair. It has been a source of great disappointment both for the Swedish Government and the Swedish public that the Soviet Government has not even seen fit to supply any information on what has thus far transpired through the investigations."

With the sole exception of the Communist organs, the entire Swedish press welcomed this new reminder. In an unusual departure from its normal practice with the press the Foreign Office confirmed that this was an especially sharply worded representation. The unanimous tenor of the press reaction to the reminder was to lay emphasis on the strong public demand that Moscow stop irritating Swedish patience and at last clarify the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg. It was recalled that after the Moscow visit of Prime Minister Erlander and Interior Minister Edvard this spring and their subsequent presentation of material to the Soviet Government to the

JSweeney/m

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

WALLENBERG

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

COORDINATED WITH State

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1964)

2
305
Stockholm

Soviet authorities documenting Wallenberg's whereabouts on various occasions in different Russian prisons and concentration camps, the following had happened:

- (1) During the Stockholm visit last May of a delegation from the Supreme Soviet the Russians requested, and later received, "supplementary information on the testimony concerning Wallenberg in Swedish hands.
- (2) In June, 1956 the Swedish Foreign Office informed the press that the Government was still waiting for a Soviet reply.
- (3) In July, 1956 Soviet Ambassador MODONOV called on the Foreign Office and advised that the results of the investigation into the Wallenberg case made by the Soviet authorities would be forthcoming "shortly".
- (4) During August the Raoul Wallenberg Committee (made up of 25 prominent private citizens) appealed to the Government to summon the Foreign Relations Council for consultations on what steps to take next.

An editorial in semi-official Social Democratic Morgon Tidningen on September 29, which has been widely quoted and endorsed by other papers, stated that there should be no doubt among the Soviet leaders that the Swedish people looked upon the lack of Soviet information on the Wallenberg case as a highly serious matter:

"Yet, the reply is still missing. Why? This is a question which the Swedish nation asks itself. If there is any seriousness at all behind the first talk about a desire to bring about friendly relations, it should be a natural thing that what has become a whole nation's concern not be ignored but, instead, an open and honest account be given of the measures taken and of the results achieved. The renewed Swedish reminder is well motivated. The serious tone corresponds to the sentiments among the Swedish people in this matter. Why is the Soviet Union silent on Wallenberg?"

Liberal Dagens Nyheter September 29, noting that it is now more than eleven years since Raoul Wallenberg disappeared, found that it was "about time" for the Swedish Foreign Office to employ strong words in the latest note to Moscow. This paper continued:

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

3. 4. 7163
586
Stockholm

"It is known that on Sweden's part the most detailed information has been submitted to Moscow concerning Raoul Wallenberg's imprisonment in Russia. It is out of the question for the Soviet authorities not to have been able to trace him. In the Wallenberg case the Soviet Union's brazen nonchalance vis-a-vis elementary Swedish demands has crystallized. It even after the latest Swedish note the Russian reply should not come forward, all that remains for the Swedish Government is to place the cards on the table and give an exhaustive account of all the facts in the case of Wallenberg."

Conservative Sydsvenska Handels wrote October 2:

"The Swedish government's note in the Wallenberg affair was certainly warranted. It should have come months ago. The nonchalance shown by the Soviet authorities in this matter is unbelievable. Six months have past since the Soviet leaders promised to supply information on Wallenberg's fate. Since then Moscow has been silent. We have been given one more proof of how little Moscow cares about the most well founded and legitimate Swedish demands."

The Foreign Office is very much concerned about the Raoul Wallenberg case and has done a tremendous amount of work to obtain information about this missing Swede who at the time of his disappearance possessed diplomatic status. Of necessity a large portion of this work has been done without publicity and under classified circumstances. However, public opinion in the past, as expressed in several of the leading papers, has implied that the Foreign Office has not done all that it might to secure the release of Wallenberg. The Foreign Office has been somewhat frustrated in not being able to answer this criticism without jeopardizing the work it was actually doing. Considerable pressure has been exerted on the Foreign Office to publish all of the material in its possession concerning Wallenberg. So far the Foreign Office has been hesitant to do this because much of the material has been obtained from foreign sources and, furthermore, it does not want to establish any sort of precedent. Feeling is so hot in official Swedish circles over this case, however, that if some sort of satisfactory reply is not received soon from the USSR the Foreign Office will approve the publication of a report which will illustrate the intransigence of the Soviet Government in following up leads supplied by the Swedish Government.

For the Charge d'Affaires ad interim:

Joseph Sweeney
First Secretary of Embassy

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

231-5725